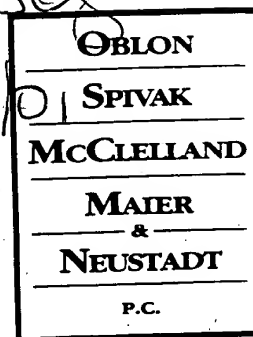




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10/13/01
DOCKET NO.: 0010-1108-0 CONT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231



Re: Serial No.: 09/577,005
Applicants: Yoko ASAKURA, et al.
Filing Date: May 25, 2000
For: METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING
AMINO ACID PRODUCING
BACTERIAL STRAINS, AND
METHOD OF PREPARING AMINO
ACIDS BY FERMENTATION WITH
THE CONSTRUCTED AMINO ACID
PRODUCING BACTERIAL STRAINS
GAU: 1652
Examiner: P. TUNG

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OCT 12 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our check in the amount of \$-0- is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. **15-0030**. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
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Kirsten A. Grueneberg, Ph.D.
Registration No.: 47,297



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DOCKET NO.: 00101108-0 CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Yoko ASAKURA, et al.

SERIAL NO.: 09/577,005

FILED: May 25, 2000

:

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1652

:

: EXAMINER: P. TUNG

FOR: METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING AMINO ACID PRODUCING BACTERIAL STRAINS, AND METHOD OF PREPARING AMINO ACIDS BY FERMENTATION WITH THE CONSTRUCTED AMINO ACID PRODUCING BACTERIAL STRAINS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Official Action dated September 10, 2001, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group III, Claims 12 and 14.

REMARKS

The Office has required restriction in the present application as follows:

- Group I: Claims 1 and 2, drawn to a method of producing coryneform bacteria having an improved amino acid productivity;
- Group II: Claims 1 and 2, drawn to a method of producing coryneform bacteria having an improved nucleic acid productivity;
- Group III: Claims 12 and 14, drawn to a glutamic acid synthesizing gene having a specific promoter and a coryneform bacterium comprising said gene;
- Group IV: Claims 13 and 15, drawn to an arginine synthetase gene having a specific promoter and a coryneform bacterium comprising said gene;
- Group V: Claim 16, drawn to a method for producing a nucleic acid by culturing a coryneform bacterium; and